

VOL. IX.

MARCH 16, 1917

No. 24

THE CIVILIAN

A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

FEATURES.

Spencer Decorated Twice.

Employing Veterans.

The Roll of Honour.

Women's Column.

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THE CIVILIAN

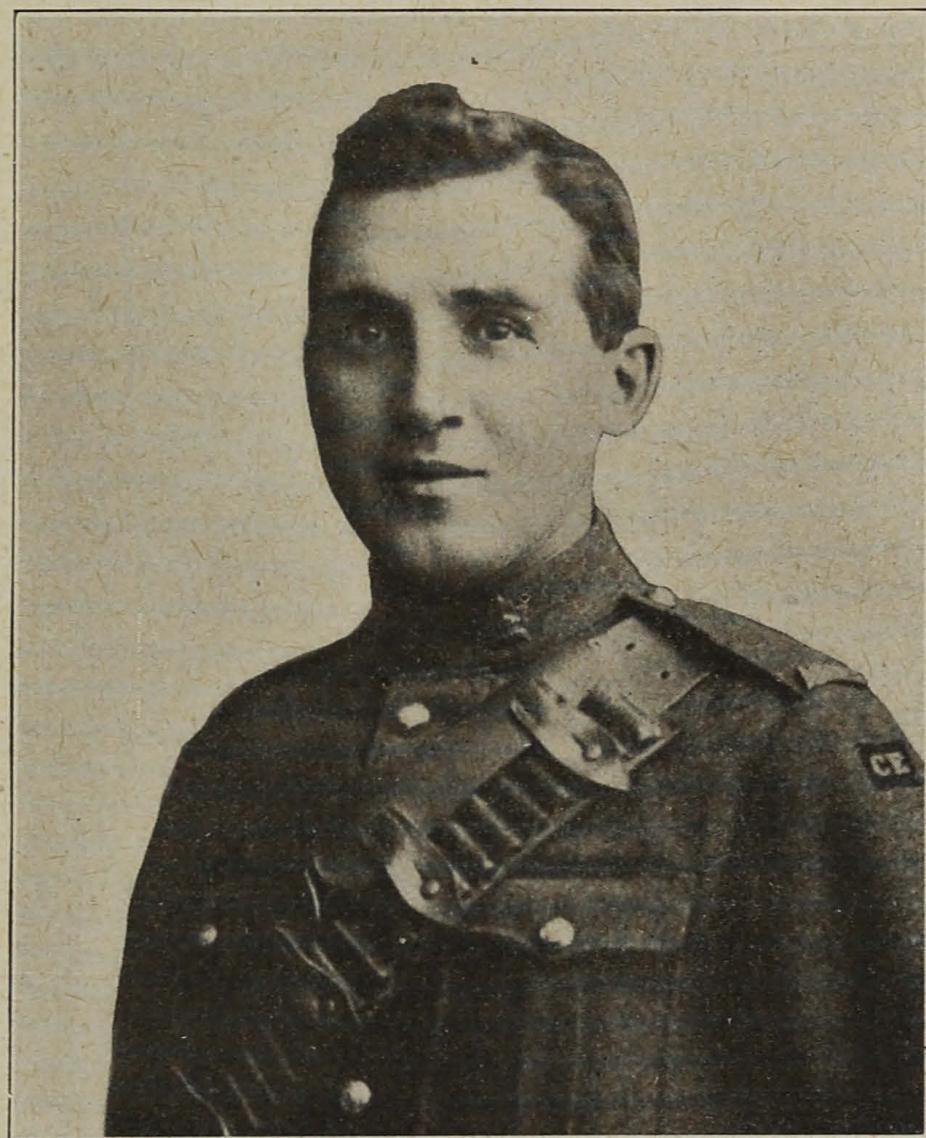
VOL. IX.

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Spencer Decorated Twice,—Harmon Three Times

In a war where deeds that deserve special recognition are performed literally in thousands, so that only a small percentage of them,—the most distinguished of all,—can be rewarded by the granting of a medal, the winning of a decoration singles out a soldier as a man of unusual qualities.



LIEUT. BURDETTE W. HARMON, M.C., D.C.M., Etc.,
Dept. of the Naval Service.

Numerous civil servants have been so honored, and, a short time ago, one of our boys who had won the Military Cross was awarded a bar in addition,—signifying that it had been earned a second time. Now it is announced that another of our boys had won a bar to his Cross, while a third receives two new decorations in addition to one he won some time ago, making three in all.

Captain Roy Aubrey Spencer, of No. 1 Tunnelling Company, Canadian Engineers, gets the bar to the Military Cross for "displaying great courage and skill in counter-mining against enemy galleries. On one occasion he was cut off from our lines for twelve hours." Captain Spencer is a member of the staff of the Forest Products Laboratories, a division of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior, located in Montreal. He won his Military Cross not long ago by persistent and extremely risky scouting in "No Man's Land" for many successive nights until he had located certain German mining operations, which he proceeded to blow up.

Lieutenant Burdette William Harmon is the thrice-decorated hero. He is officially recorded as having "led raiding party, bombed three dug-outs, inflicting many casualties, and brought back two unwounded prisoners." Bombing is Harmon's specialty. As a sapper in the Engineers he won early distinction in such work, on one occasion bombing his way through German trenches all alone, after the rest of his party were disabled, and being finally carried away with thirteen wounds in his body. He got the D.C.M. for that, and, when he was again fit for service, was awarded a commission. For the exploit described in the above quotation from Orders he gets the Military Cross. Simultaneously with this award, announcement was made that Lieut. Harmon had been chosen to receive the Order of St. George of the fourth class from the Czar of Russia, and that King George had accorded him permission to wear the foreign decoration.

Lieut. Harmon belongs to the staff of the Fisheries Branch of the Department of the Naval Service. He has a unique combination of honors,—the D.C.M., which can only be granted to a private or N.C.O., and the Military Cross, which can only be granted to an officer. The former was won before, and the latter after he was com-

missioned. The Russian decoration was awarded to "Sapper" Harmon, so that it was in recognition of his earlier exploits.

Lieut. Harmon is the second civil servant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force to win the Russian Cross. The first award was to Joseph Stanley Marchant, of the Quebec Customs staff, who died on May 13th, 1915, of wounds received while rescuing wounded under fire in the battle of St. Julien. His parents received the Order.

The first civil servant to win a bar to the Military Cross was Lieut. R. W. Powell, Canadian Engineers, a member of the Public Works staff.

NEW, YET OLD,—SO OLD!

"War insanity" has appeared in Ottawa in a new, and yet very old, form, to wit—"The Prayer Chain."

For years the "chain" has been dragging itself around the world, usually luggering the name of Bishop Lawrence with it, though that prelate publicly disclaimed any connection with it. It turns up again now and brazenly parades as the "Red Cross Chain." That it came from Russia and is bound around the world, is the new excuse. The recipient of the chain-letter is to write a letter a day for nine days, each letter containing a prayer for victory for the Allies. There is the usual promise of a blessing for compliance with the request and the usual threat of misfortune for disregarding it.

Needless to say, the Red Cross organization has nothing to do with such nonsense. Christian people do not need to be reminded of their hours of prayer in such a crisis as that through which the world is now passing, by the task of writing anonymous letters under the terror of an anonymous threat.

A number of the letters were received by civil servants. Fortunately there is always a waste paper basket handy in a government office.

CIVIL SERVICE CASUALTIES.

ERNEST W. PAINTER.

Ernest William Painter, sergeant-major in the 207th Ottawa-Carleton Battalion, C.E.F., died of pneumonia at Amherst, N.S., on February 26th, after a short illness. The remains were brought to Ottawa and the funeral took place on March 1st. The band of the Governor General's Foot Guards and an escort and firing party from the Signallers Training Depot rendered the last military honors to the dead soldier. The church service was conducted by Rev. Canon Snowden. Sergt.-Maj. Painter was an employee of the Department of Agriculture.

A. L. VAN SCHEPDAEL.

Official notice is given that A. L. Van Schepdael is regarded as having died between April 22nd and 26th, 1916. Van Schepdael was a letter carrier attached to the Calgary post office. He enlisted for active service on August 28th, 1914, and went to the front with the First Division. He has been missing since the great fight at St. Julien, and, as all effort to discover trace of him has failed, he must now be recorded as one more among those who laid down their lives in the conflict that saved Calais. Van Schepdael was in his twenty-third year and entered the post service in 1913.

GREGORY BURNS.

For the third time since he went to the front, Gregory Burns of the Government Printing Bureau has his name in the casualty list. He was slightly wounded last July, more severely in September and is now again listed as "wounded", without definite particulars as to the character of his injury. He was a recruit of the 59th Battalion.

WAR PERSONALS.

S. Durandel, of Montreal, has been appointed translator in the Department of Trade and Commerce. M. Durandel was in Canada when the war broke out, but immediately returned to France and reported for military service. He served with the artillery in the first campaign, including the battle of the Marne, but was subsequently discharged as unfit for further service.

Private H. R. Gregory, of the 81st Battalion, a customs officer from St. Catharines, has been discharged from Westcliffe Canadian Eye and Ear Hospital at Folkestone, where he has been a patient since he was wounded in September last.

Lieut. Percy Howard Gardner, wounded, is a son of H. W. Gardner, postmaster of Arnprior.

Capt. J. R. Disbrow, C.A.M.C., invalided home, belongs to the Marine Department staff at Dalhousie, N.B.

Lieut. A. W. Bentley, R.F.A., of the Forestry Branch, is a son of Major D. B. Bentley and brother of Private D. W. Bentley, C.A.M.C. A photograph of the two was recently reproduced in a Montreal newspaper.

Major H. V. Rorke is appointed acting lieutenant-colonel while commanding a battalion. Major Rorke belongs to the Department of Customs. He went overseas as second in command of the 20th Battalion and has commanded that unit on many occasions during the absence of its C.O. on other duty.

Lieut. G. M. Taylor, of the Engineers, reported badly wounded on March 2nd, is a son of Geo. W. Taylor, Assistant Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

Major P. P. Acland, M.C., is slowly recovering from his terrible wounds and recently received his Military Cross from the hands of King George.

A list of officers on reserve and base duty in England who have earned official commendation by their efficiency includes the names of Lieut.

Col. E. E. W. Moore, of Hamilton, and Lieut.-Col. J. R. Munro, of Ottawa. The former is a customs official and the latter belongs to the Census Branch, Department of Trade and Commerce. Major J. L. Regan, of the C.A.P.C., also mentioned, was formerly a civil clerk in the Department of Militia and Defence.

EMPLOYING VETERANS.

Dr. Adam Shortt, Civil Service Commissioner, was examined at length, on March 2nd, before the special parliamentary committee on the returned soldiers problem. His evidence had to do with the present and proposed arrangements for the employment of such men in the Civil Service, and, incidentally, there were brought out many important details as to other features of Civil Service administration.

The following paragraphs from Dr. Shortt's testimony, under examination by members of the Committee, are especially interesting:—

“We, of course, expect there will be many more returned soldiers fully qualified for those positions than can obtain them, and therefore we expect the returned soldiers will be their own competitors when they return in sufficient numbers.

“There are many engineers, chemists and scientific men of all grades in the troops.... We expect these men will be able to fill these positions when they return, that they will be strong competitors and that preference should be given them.... Meantime these positions should be filled only temporary.... When these men get back from the front after the war is over, let the positions be thrown open to competition.”

More lengthy and complete extracts from the testimony will be given in subsequent issues of *The Civilian*.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE.

It is gratifying to note that in the many new activities now being put forth to increase the production and conserve the research work of Canada the work which the Civil Service has been doing right along is being recognized. This has been the case for a long time in regard to agriculture, stock-raising and the fishing industry. Additional stress is now being placed on the work of the Department of Mines and the Forestry Branch.

At the last meeting of the Advisory Council on Scientific and Industrial Research an extensive programme, looking to the development of Canadian industries, was outlined. This programme embraced such subjects as scholarships, education, research bureaus, etc. A number of specific projects will also be examined, among these is one which has for its object the provision of an adequate supply of good fuel for the Prairie Provinces. The Department of Mines and the Commission of Conservation are to be asked to co-operate in this.

Another specific piece of work has to do with the conservation of the forests of Eastern Canada. The Council recommended that certain investigations be carried out through the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior to ascertain what methods can best be applied to our forests for the purpose of stopping the destruction which now threatens them, and to make them a great and permanent source of wealth to the people of Canada. Gradually it is being realized that there is an immense amount of exact knowledge and efficient organization in the Civil Service of Canada and that these can be applied with beneficial effect to the big problems which the war has created.

Why is coffee like a blunt knife?
Ans.—Because it must be ground before it is used.

The Roll of Honour.

Men of the Public Service of Canada enlisted for active military service.
Names previously published—3,006.

SIXTY-EIGHTH LIST.

Lieut. J. Lawrence, Agriculture, Ottawa, British Army.
F. E. Anderson, Agriculture, Ottawa, Mechanical Transport.
O. D. Johnston, Agriculture, Ottawa, 207th Battalion.
W. Goold, Agriculture, Ottawa, 8th Mounted Rifles.
W. I. Todd, Agriculture, Ottawa, 156th Battalion.
P. A. Connolly, Agriculture, Ottawa, 74th Battery, C.F.A.
H. G. Fawcett, Agriculture, Ottawa, No. 2 Field Ambulance.
S. J. Hunt, Agriculture, Ottawa, 13th Brigade, C.F.A.
G. C. Cox, Agriculture, Ottawa, Royal Flying Corps.
H. S. Fleming, Agriculture, Ottawa, 52nd Battery, C.F.A.
L. A. Browne, Agriculture, Ottawa, P.P.C.L.I.
Lieut. D. S. Cole, Agriculture, Ottawa, 77th Battalion.

(Men of the Hudson Bay Railway Staff,—second list):

Capt. H. J. Hall, 16th Battalion.
Capt. J. H. Irvine, 203rd Battalion.
Lieut. R. Kent, Artillery.
W. Knightly, Coldstream Guards.
W. Law, 16th Battalion.
Lieut. F. M. Lawledge, Royal Engineers.
Lieut. J. O. Leach, Imperial Army.
S. F. Leleu.
F. L. Lloyd, Engineries.
Lieut. D. M. Marshall, 100th Battalion.
C. S. Matheson, 16th Battalion.
H. S. Minnes.
Capt. W. J. Moffatt, 130th Battalion.
A. Monkman, 199th Battalion.
E. J. Morgan, 45th Battalion.
A. Morrison.
A. L. MacDonald.
Lieut. N. MacKenzie, 144th Battalion.
J. A. McMurry.
T. Pearn, Artillery.
D. J. Phillips, 5th Artillery.
W. A. Phillips, 190th Battalion.
J. P. Power.
H. Pratt, 11th Battalion.
H. Y. Ridge, 45th Battalion.
J. H. Ross, Royal Engineers.
F. J. Sainsburg, Army Medical Corps.
N. Schreiber, Royal Canadian Dragoons.
Lieut. R. J. Steel, 65th (formerly 179th) Battalion.
G. Silcox, 45th Battalion.
E. Slack, 100th Battalion.
W. H. Stuart, Engineries.
W. A. Stevenson, 100th Battalion.
Lieut. J. E. Tait, 100th Battalion.
C. C. Tebbutt, 90th Battalion.
W. C. Thomas, 14th Hussars (Reservist).
J. S. Vaughan, Engineers.
J. Vinie, 21st Battalion.
W. T. Walby, Royal Field Artillery (Reservist).
C. F. Wilkins, 1st Canadian Pioneers.
W. A. Porter.
J. McLeod, 107th Battalion.
J. A. Theriault, 12th Field Ambulance.

THE CIVILIAN

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THE CIVILIAN, P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, March 16, 1917

THE NATIONAL DUTY.

The people of Canada should practise economy, which results in greater national saving. Every man over twenty-one understands how to economize, and every man can carry it out if he wants to carry it out. I believe the people of Canada will rise to this as to all other occasions, and that the men at the front will not suffer for lack of shells, so far as the industrial facilities of Canada are able to provide them. Let us economize. Let us make our savings serve the purposes of war. Let the people of the Dominion, by thrift and economy, make their dollars ght the Hun.'

—Sir Thomas White.

There are millions of gallant young men in France, in Saloniki, in Egypt, in Mesopotamia, facing torture, terror, death. They are the flower of our race. Unless the nation is prepared to take its share of the sacrifice, theirs' would be in vain. And I say it would be a crime, a black crime, for any Government to ask them to risk their brave lives in the coming conflict if they know that the nation behind them were faint-hearted or selfish. Their sacrifices would be thrown away. We have no right to ask it.

—Lloyd George.

OUR BOYS

Previously reported:

Dead	160
Wounded	226
Prisoners	14

DEAD

ERNEST W. PAINTER.
A. L. VAN SCHEPDAEL.

WOUNDED

GREGORY BURNS.

FALL IN!

Announcement that units of the volunteer militia are to be brought up to strength and made efficient in drill and discipline creates a new situation, affecting every able-bodied man in the country. Tens of thousands of men who could not enroll in the overseas battalions because they were a little too old, a little too young, had slight physical defects or heavy family responsibilities, have declared their desire to serve the Empire in any way they could. Now is their chance.

In order to maintain the supply of reinforcing drafts to the Canadian divisions at the front, it will be necessary to practically denude Canada of troops enrolled for overseas service. Since the commencement of the war, overseas troops in training in Canada have been the main dependence of the country for home defence. Militia regiments have been drained of practically all their young men and some of them cannot muster ten per cent of their nominal strength. Now these corps must be prepared to take up the responsibilities of home defence, permitting all the overseas troops to leave as soon as called for.

The duty of bringing the militia corps up to full strength and efficiency is upon the men who can't go to the front. When Canada adopted the volunteer system it placed the men

of the country upon their honor to maintain an efficient militia force. It is now up to the stay-at-homes to show whether that confidence was misplaced or not.

When the home regiments call for recruits let every fit civil servant in Canada respond.

Fall in!

THE LISLE REPORT.

The report of the sub-committee on membership and representation is for not only the executive committee but for every member of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa to consider carefully.

The recommendations on the problem of representation involve amendments to the constitution before they can be put into effect, and every member should be prepared to vote intelligently on the proposed innovations. The electoral methods advocated by the report appear to be well suited to the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Service and should make the governing body more truly representative of the whole membership of the Association. Paragraph No. 6 seems to introduce a petty mercenary spirit, foreign to the general high tone of the report, and might well be dropped.

The lecture course and amateur theatrical propositions are in themselves eminently desirable and would go a long way towards promoting that community of interest that alone can make the full power of the Civil Service body available for any purpose. There is talent in plenty and to spare for the carrying out of these schemes. Civil servants are the mainstay of every voluntary enterprise for public education or instruction that is carried out in Ottawa.

The report is a credit to Chairman Lisle and the other members of the committee. Combined with a well-organized and persistent personal canvass for members in every depart-

ment, the new plan should achieve excellent results. It is to be regretted that it cannot be fully tried out at once. The canvass for members, however, neither requires nor permits of any delay.

THE ROLL.

The editors would call the attention of both "knockers" and "boosters" to the Roll of Honour. Last issue the total of names published passed the 3,000 mark. Fifty-five more names appear in this issue and an equal number will be published fortnightly for some time to come. Civil Service enlistments have averaged well over a hundred a month for the whole period of the war. To publish all the names still on hand at once would involve the crowding out of much other valuable matter or the expense of an enlarged issue. The editors believe that it is more interesting to readers to have the names of the boys in khaki in one-page instalments. That many names are in hand awaiting publication should not be taken by anyone as reason for not forwarding additional lists promptly. Up-to-date reports are always needed for statistical purposes, and, in the case of duplications, one list often gives details not contained in another. So, while the editors "point with pride" to the great and growing Roll of Honour, they add the old appeal,—*send in more names,—do it now!*

AN EXAMPLE.

"The absence of these two men will seriously disturb the work of their branch, but I recognize that the winning of the war is the consideration of paramount importance and I will not withhold from them leave to go to the front."

These were the words of a deputy

head, addressed to a recruiting officer who was seeking recruits in the department. They express the attitude that every chief official of the Civil Service should take at this time. There are some men who cannot possibly be spared from civil duties, but the higher officers should seek to reduce their number to an absolute minimum.

WHERE WERE YOU?

In the States, for many years after the Civil War, men used to be confronted with the question, "Where were you in 'sixty-four?" and the fellow who couldn't show that he had done his part in the critical year of the great struggle ranked pretty low in any community. In Canada there will be a question asked for the next forty years,—"Where were you in 'seventeen?"

Win the war.

There's a "bit" for you to do.

The Militia Department announces that buttons will be issued to rejected volunteers. Then the slackers will be still more conspicuous.

Each new war loan is a new call to thrift,—a new call to every one, who has \$21.50 or more saved up to lend it to Canada.

Have you seen that aged man,—grey-bearded and bent,—proudly wearing the khaki on the streets of Ottawa? Too old to fight, he does his bit in a non-combatant unit. At sight of that old hero every able-bodied slacker should go away and hide,—"crawl in a hole and pull the hole in after him."

Most men are willing to start something for the sake of an argument.

FAITHFUL, — STARING DEATH IN THE FACE.

Train No. 41 wrecked near Uttersdon to-day, Friday, the 9th inst. Startlingly brief, the thought at once comes "what of the dead and injured?" On duty in as perilous a position as any that obtains in the Public Service, A. L. Barclay, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto District, paid the supreme sacrifice, crushed to death in a fragile, wooden postal car attached to Grand Trunk train No. 41, Toronto and North Bay, wrecked in collision with a freight train.

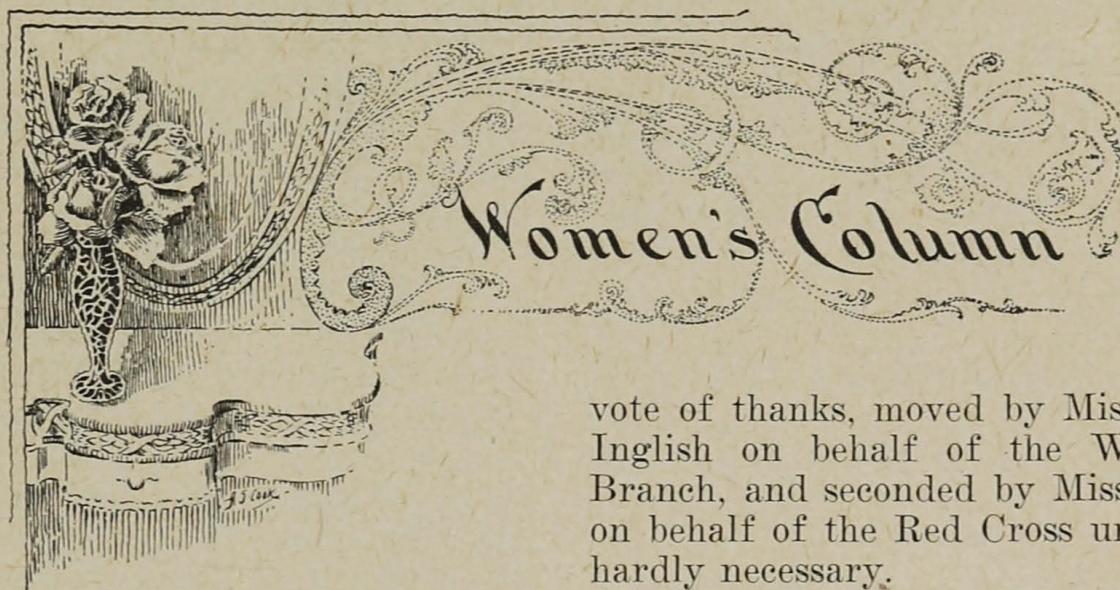
How fared his running mate? C. E. Gilbert was hurled under the wreckage and pinned beneath it for some time. As soon as released, and before being hurried by special train to Barrie Hospital, so severe were his injuries, he was so imbued with the idea of "carry on" that he informed Express Messenger Guinane, also of the wrecked train, that while he was lying under the tender he had seen two large money packages, and requested Guinane to get them. Men have won decorations in Flanders having no greater sense of duty on His Majesty's Service.

Mr. Barclay's father is James Barclay, Postmaster at Camperdown, Ont., where the funeral of the late clerk was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst.

HE KNOWS.

Gunner D'Aoust, of Ottawa, a released prisoner of war, says that without the parcels of food sent in, the prisoners could not live. The Red Cross parcels, he reports, are very good and arrive with the greatest regularity, though only a few parcels from his relatives got through.

Why is a horse cleverer than a fox?
Ans.—Because a horse can run in a trap, and a fox cannot.



Hon. Dr. Roche Addresses Women's Branch.

The Women's Branch is especially indebted to the women of the Department of the Interior who had charge of the programme at the last Red Cross Rally, held on the evening of March 6th in the Y.W.C.A. lecture hall.

Many women who had not before responded to the appeal accepted the cordial invitation of the women of the Interior, and when Hon. Dr. Roche, the head of the department, arose to address them, he was greeted enthusiastically by a capacity audience.

The speaker prefaced his remarks on Red Cross work by many complimentary references to the abilities of women in general and especially in their Red Cross endeavours. An outline of work already accomplished was given and statistics quoted in a most interesting fashion to show how greatly depleted are the present supplies in the London headquarters and how big the future demand is bound to be. The Minister gently chided the women of his own department for losing their place as first in the Red Cross work of the various departments and he made a strong appeal to all women to increase their output and to keep on knitting. Upon the conclusion of his address, Dr. Roche was given such a round of applause that the formal

vote of thanks, moved by Miss Edna Inglish on behalf of the Women's Branch, and seconded by Miss Miller on behalf of the Red Cross unit, was hardly necessary.

Next in interest on the programme was an exhibition of views of the Dominion Parks. Everyone was delighted with the beauty and grandeur of the scenes thrown on the canvas and with the able manner in which Miss Jukes acted as showman. The Women's Branch is deeply indebted to the Dominion Parks Branch for loaning the views and to its officials for managing the lantern.

A vocal solo was rendered by Miss A. Denny and a violin solo by Miss Ina Blackburn; both in admirable manner.

Refreshments were then served and dancing was indulged in for a few moments before closing.

Business.

So full of entertainment was the programme arranged by the women of the Interior that the usual business end of the meeting was almost crowded out. However, some important items came up and the members were given some new material to think over.

Miss Burt announced that circulars would be sent the various advisory board members detailing to them the duties expected of them. Special stress was laid on the necessity of being conscientious in sending out notices of meetings, etc.

As a member of the Soldiers' Com-

forts Committee of the Women's Canadian Club, the president informed the meeting that the Women's Branch had been given the option on a gardening lot at the corner of O'Connor street and Argyle avenue. If enough volunteers are forthcoming the work will be taken in hand by the Women's Branch.

The convener of the recreation committee made an announcement *re* dancing classes for the Spring. Those wishing to join may communicate with Miss Ina Blackburn.

The programme convener made a report on the sale throughout the Service of tickets for the Prisoners of War Vaudeville, which is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

Miss Katherine Robinson, of the Department of Agriculture drew the attention of the meeting to the great shortage of labor that is about to be experienced by the fruit growers of Ontario and more particularly of the Niagara peninsula. She offered the suggestion that some of the women civil servants might arrange to spend their holidays fruit picking and packing. The suggestion was enthusiastically received by individual members and Miss Robinson promised to work out some details of the project and to report on it at the next meeting.

Red Cross Social March 20th.

The women of the Mines and the Railways and Canals have combined to make arrangements for the next Red Cross Social, which will be on Tuesday evening, March 20, in De Normandie Hall.

A special treat is in store, for Miss Young of the former department will have on view some specimens of Canadian pottery, and she will also point out what Canada may do in the future along pottery lines.

Everyone is invited to come, not only to be entertained but to do Red Cross work as well.

Prisoners of War.

Seldom have the people of Ottawa turned out in such force to an amateur entertainment as they did to the vaudeville for the Prisoners of War Fund in the Russell Theatre on March 1st, under the patronage of the Governor-General and the auspices of the Women's Canadian Club.

Some of the Women's Branch enthusiasts were anxious that tickets should be sold throughout the Service and some endeavor made to record the amount of support given the vaudeville by the Service. The effort so made was not altogether successful for while the audience was comprised largely of civil servants and their dependents, as any Ottawa audience is bound to be, only \$147.50 worth of tickets was sold through the Women's Branch.

While the attempt to concentrate the support of the Service may have failed, it is gratifying to every one concerned that the vaudeville was so well patronized that the latest report from the committee in charge of the fund puts the proceeds at a little over \$1,300. Not only was the vaudeville an unprecedented financial success, but everyone voted it an artistic one as well. Many who bought tickets and put in an appearance to support a cause dear to the hearts of all of us were delighted with the evening's entertainment.

Much of the success of the venture was due to the tireless efforts of the convener of the committee, Mrs. R. H. Coats, wife of our one time Civil Service Association president, while Mrs. Frank Grierson, wife of another well known civil servant, contributed her share. A glance at the programme shows that many of the performers were either civil servants or the wives and daughters of civil servants. Special mention must be made of the work of Mr. H. Paynter Bell of the Department of Trade and Commerce, as stage manager, and of the work of Mr. S. H. Maw, architect on the new Govern-

ment building, who designed the programmes.

All of which goes to show that when Mr. E. Lisle, chairman of the sub-committee on membership and representation for the Civil Service Association, inaugurates his theatrical scheme, outlined in the report published in the last issue of *The Civilian*, he will find no lack of talent and executive ability in the Civil Service.

If you have not already done so, send in your name as a volunteer gardener to Miss Burt. Further details of the scheme will be published later, but in the meantime it is of interest to know that all the gardening is to be done under the supervision of the Horticultural Society and under the management of the Soldiers' Comforts Committee of the Women's Canadian Club. All we have to do is work.

The country needs your labour and you need the exercise.

The Women's Branch extends its congratulations to the chairman and committee on its report on membership and representation. The suggestions of an annual Civil Service theatrical, and of lectures of a high class, meet with the approval of the Branch, which already has been working along those lines.

When the report is adopted and comes to be carried into effect, it is sure to meet with enthusiastic co-operation on the part of the Women's Branch.

DR. HOFFMAN DEAD.

One of the distinguished veterans of the scientific side of the Civil Service passed away on March 6th in the person of George Christian Hoffman, formerly Assistant Director of the Geological Survey.

Dr. Hoffman was born in London and educated in England and in Germany. After holding pedagogical positions in England he went to South

Africa, Mauritius and Australia, being engaged in each colony in scientific work of private and public nature. Arriving in Canada in 1872 he became a member of the Geological Survey staff under Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, then director, and was repeatedly advanced until he became assistant director in 1883. This position he retained until his retirement from active work in 1907.

Dr. Hoffman was in his eightieth year. He was a member of many learned societies in both Europe and America, had been honored with fellowships and degrees, and was one of the scientists chosen by the Marquis of Lorne at the foundation of the Royal Society of Canada. He was the author of a number of valuable scientific monographs.

AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS.

While there are no really important developments in the matter of the military service of civil servants, there is decided progress towards important changes from the existing situation.

The Public Service Committee of the National Service Board completed its census of the Service about a week ago, and the schedules are now being analyzed. The revealed facts will be laid before the Government. It is anticipated that some action, by Order-in-Council, will follow.

Rumors are rife. Occasionally one can be traced to its source, and then it usually proves to have slight foundation or none at all. For example: There was the tale that all the outside and temporary men, unmarried and of military age, in the employ of a certain department had been dismissed. Inquiry reveals that no such action was taken. The department in question has extensive "field work" in hand. In accordance with the Government's policy of retrenchment, this work is being greatly reduced until after the war. Large reductions of staff are necessary and the single men have been the first to be dropped.

from the pay-roll. War conditions are not responsible for this. When the department reduces staff the single men are always dismissed first.

One young man has been dismissed because of a war-time rule. After he had secured a position it was discovered that he was of military age, physically fit and unmarried, and it was immediately ordered that his services be dispensed with. His appointment was not one coming within the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission.

Regarding the relative obligations to enlist of single men in the Service and in other occupations, certain officials in high positions hold that, as the Government has given its employees special consideration in the matter of guaranteeing positions and net civil pay while on military duty, it may properly expect a higher ratio of enlistments from the Service than from other occupations. This argument may be set forth when the matter is again considered by the Government.

Certain reorganizations of staffs, to be of either temporary or permanent nature, are advocated. It is argued that there are certain duplications of work by departments and branches, and that, when some branches are very busy and others comparatively quiet, transfers of clerks from one to another would obviate the necessity of employing additional help. The recent census included careful inquiry into what each person *could* do as well as what he or she was actually doing. Having the qualifications of each individual on record, the heads of departments are in position to arrange for reorganizations on a practicable plan.

It is repeatedly stated in the newspapers that the Government and military authorities are arranging for the bringing into effect of certain parts of the Militia Act. There is some anticipation that action in regard to the Civil Service will be taken at the same time.

The National Service Board is said to have come to certain conclusions regarding men in the Public Service who are fit for military duty, but what these conclusions are is not divulged.

The whole situation is one of mystery and no development would be altogether surprising. It is rather a subject of surprise that action is so long delayed.

Recruiting in the Service proceeds about as usual. Different units are securing a few men each, but there is no general revival of military spirit in evidence, such as would be likely to induce the Government to refrain from drastic action in the hope that the volunteering system might yet secure all, or nearly all, the available men for military service.

OTTAWA NOTES.

To promote home vegetable growing, the Ottawa Horticultural Society is giving a free short course in gardening to all who wish to avail themselves of its advantages. Members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture have taken a leading part in the work by giving lectures and demonstrations.

Thomas Fawcett, D.L.S., of the International Boundary Survey, lectured before the Royal Astronomical Society on March 1st.

Notices of the "Special Assessment upon which Provincial War Tax Rate and Patriotic Grants Rate will be Levied for the Year 1917" have been served upon civil servants whose salaries exceed the amount of exemption for all taxes.

The Department of Finance and Printing Bureau have heavy special work to carry out whenever a new domestic war loan is in preparation,—such as that which was launched last Monday. In this particular instance a million and a half of prospectuses and application forms were printed and distributed to more than 3,500

branch banks, bond companies and other establishments that will act as agents of the loan. The paper used in printing these weighed fourteen tons.

Numerous stereotypes for advertising in newspapers were also shipped. The Department of Finance has yet the enormous task of receiving and recording applications, apportioning the bonds, paying commissions to agencies, engrossing, numbering and registering the bonds, delivering them to the purchasers and carrying out numerous other details absolutely necessary to the safety and accuracy of every detail in the enormous multiple transaction.

The new mace for the House of Commons, replacing that which was destroyed in the Parliament building fire a year ago is to be formally presented in London to Sir Robert Borden by the Lord Mayor of the Metropolis. It is the gift of the sheriffs of London for 1916.

FIFTY YEARS SERVICE.

(Victoria 'Times')

For fifty years William Henderson, resident architect of the Department of Public Works of Canada for British Columbia, has been a member of the Public Service, and the jubilee of his first appointment was taken advantage of by his colleagues in the federal service in Victoria to tender him a complimentary banquet.

This took place on Saturday evening, February 24th, when half a hundred officials assembled around the board, at the head of which J. G. Brown presided, with the veteran guest at his right. Every department of the federal service in this province was represented, and from the representatives of each branch came good wishes for the doyen of the Dominion civil servants in British Columbia.

The toast to the guest of the evening was enthusiastically honored, with the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," and three times three. The chairman proposed this toast, and from his sixteen years' as-

sociation with Mr. Henderson as his assistant he was able to speak from knowledge of his many fine qualities, both as a man and as an official.

A gold-mounted ebony cane, inscribed with an inscription commemorative of the occasion, was presented to Mr. Henderson, together with a beautifully illuminated address, which had been designed and executed by H. E. Nelson, of the Public Works Department.

Mr. Henderson expressed his great pleasure at such a mark of honor from the men with whom he worked from day to day. He accepted it as a token of their friendship and esteem, of which he had no reason to doubt, as it had been manifested during all the years he had been in the service. A tribute was paid by Mr. Henderson to the character and quality of the men who fill the various positions in the federal service in this province.

Other toasts honored, in addition to the loyal ones, were:

"The Naval and Military Forces, Department of Marine and Fisheries and Dominion Wireless Department," proposed by Capt. E. H. Fletcher, post office inspector, and responded to by Mr. Stanford, of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and E. J. Haughton, of the Radio-Telegraph service; "Post Office, Customs and Inland Revenue Departments," proposed by A. F. Mitchell, and responded to by H. F. Bishop, W. Marchant and J. E. Miller; "Department of Indian Affairs and Department of Finance," proposed by William Dee and responded to by W. E. Ditchburn and D. D. McConnan; "Department of Interior and Agriculture," proposed by J. C. Newbury, and responded to by Dr. G. L. Milne and Dr. S. F. Tolmie; "Department of Public Works," proposed by W. Marchant and responded to by C. C. Worsfold; "The Ladies," proposed by E. Haynes and responded to by H. F. Bishop; "The Host," proposed by R. Jones and responded to by Stephen Jones.

(It was also noteworthy that the celebration was held on Mr. Henderson's eightieth birthday. This veteran of the Service is the father of Dr. Gordon Henderson, of Ottawa.)

During 1915 the number of vessels which passed through the Suez Canal were 3,708, of which 2,736, representing 70 per cent of the total tonnage, carried the British flag. The number of troops borne through the canal was 119,812.

FOILING THE GAS.

One of the most interesting and informative lectures heard recently in Ottawa was delivered on March 1st at the Y.M.C.A. hall by W. B. Campbell, assistant superintendent of the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada, on "Gas Attacks in War and How They Are Met."

The Forest Products Laboratories are under the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior and are located at Montreal. Their object is to assist Canadians in utilizing all wood products to the highest point. Mr. Campbell, who is an expert chemist, enlisted early in the war and his chemistry knowledge was utilized by the army in meeting the gas attacks of the Germans. Later, however, Dr. J. S. Bates, the superintendent of the laboratories, was "loaned" by the Department of the Interior to the Munitions Board, that he might devote his whole time to the manufacture of explosives, and Mr. Campbell was called back to Canada to take charge of the laboratories, a good deal of the work of which has to do with the war.

He has lectured several times before university classes and engineering societies, and it was thought advisable to give people in the Capital an opportunity of hearing from one of our own experts, who is also a civil servant, on this subject.

In opening his lecture, Mr. Campbell showed that there was nothing new or ingenious in Germany's using gas in war. The Chinese used "stink" bombs hundreds of years ago for the same purpose and Britain has had full information for over seventy years about the use of gas in war, but declined to use it. A Hague convention decided against gas, but Germany did not mind that—another scrap of paper.

Mr. Campbell explained that to be effective the gas must be volatile enough to come quickly out of the containers and heavier than air, so

that it would form a cloud along the ground. It is a clumsy weapon, only to be used when the wind is right, and gas cylinders weighing one hundred tons per mile of trench have to be provided for an attack lasting fifteen minutes. The success of the first attacks was due to the unpreparedness of the French and British armies, but now that helmets have been devised to neutralize the poison, the attacks have been rendered largely ineffective. Mr. Campbell showed that gas could not be thrown in shells in sufficient quantities to be poisonous, so an irritant was discharged in this way which caused the eyes of the men to water, so that for a short time they were blinded by tears. Hence the name "tear" shells. The use of helmets also overcomes these effects. On the whole the lecturer said the Allied armies had so met and returned the attacks that the Germans, he believed, were very sorry they had ever started the use of gas.

In spite of a number of other important meetings taking place that evening there was a good attendance. The chair was occupied by R. H. Campbell, Director of Forestry, who at the close of the lecture invited the audience to ask questions and thus initiated a profitable half hour. The lecturer had brought with him six different types of helmets, four British and two German. He put these on, one after the other, explaining the evolution of the British helmet, and also showing why the British helmet is better than the German. The helmets were handed about among those present and were examined with great interest, especially by some soldiers from the training depot. The suggestion has been made that there should be an effort to bring Mr. Campbell to Ottawa again that more citizens of the Capital might hear this informative and patriotic lecture.

A woman's memories of love are far more satisfactory than the real thing.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

Thanks, Friend!

Editors *The Civilian*:

Since the Patriotic Fund campaign everybody has been thanking everybody else for making it a success, but I haven't seen anybody thanking *The Civilian* for what it did. You certainly helped the Civil Service Association to make a big showing and your articles on the Red Cross and for the soldiers' wives and children just before the campaign made your readers think about these things seriously. I think you deserve a lot of credit for what you did in the campaign.

Yours truly,
W. S. C.

THE COST STILL HIGHER.

In the last issue of *The Civilian* it was stated that the cost of sending parcels from the Canadian Red Cross depot in London to prisoners of war in Germany was \$7 per man per month. It is now learned that the cost exceeds \$10 per man per month, or five times what it was at the beginning of the war. The increase in cost is due partly to the higher cost of goods and partly to the increased amount of food sent to each man. It is believed that the Germans are now giving their prisoners practically no food at all. But for Red Cross parcels they would starve.

About the end of 1916, Canadian prisoners of war in Germany numbered 2,196, located in ninety-one different camps.

VALUE RECOGNIZED.

In a sermon on the Civil Service, preached on March 4th, Rev. J. S.

Farmer of McPhail Memorial Baptist Church, Ottawa, discussed his subject in an eminently fair and broad-minded fashion. He gave civil servants credit for the large part they take in church, philanthropic and fraternal affairs in the Capital and recognized their commercial importance to the city.

In one detail Rev. Mr. Farmer was somewhat astray, quite evidently lacking accurate information. He stated that there were ten thousand civil servants in Ottawa and that their average salary was \$1,080 per year.

In order to get a total of 10,000 persons as civil servants it is necessary to include the staffs of the Printing Bureau, city post office and customs house, Public Works shops, etc. This brings into the calculation many hundreds of low-paid employees and reduces the average salary correspondingly. As a matter of fact, the average salary received in the clerical branches alone is probably less than \$1,000. (Newspapers misquoted Rev. Mr. Farmer's statement in this connection, making it "\$1,800" instead of "\$1,080.")

Rev. Mr. Farmer's attitude of fairness and appreciation towards the Service and the evidence that he has made a serious effort to inform himself as to conditions and problems affecting it have given a most favourable impression.

THE NEW LIST.

The new "bilingual" or "polyglot" Civil Service List (dated April 1st, 1916) is out at last. It contains a few more than fifteen thousand names, —including, of course, the Outside Services of the whole Dominion.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries marked the names of its men on active military service and those who have lost their lives on that duty. The Department of Labour and the Interior also mark the names of their men who have died on the field of honor.

A RARE CHANCE.

Ottawa is to have a siege battery for overseas service, and if the Civil Service says so it will be an *exclusively Civil Service unit*.

All that is required is the enlistment of seventy-five men in quick time.

Men must be at least five feet five inches tall and of good mental ability to qualify for siege gun work. The enlisted men will be billeted in their own homes until the battery leaves for overseas. Non-commissioned officers will be selected from the best men in the first lot of recruits.

Siege-gunners are the highest skilled of any combatant arm of the service. They are the boys who operate the mammoth howitzers away behind the lines and "lob" earthquakes into Fritzie's dugouts,—ten miles or so away.

The opportunity of forming a "class" siege battery has been given only once before in Canada. McGill University got the chance and filled the unit up in about a week.

Seventy-five men of the Civil Service can have a little military club all to themselves if they will just *speak quick*. It's a rare chance.

See Lieut. MacCormac.

ESCAPED PRISONERS.

(Canada, Dec. 2, 1916)

Two more Canadians have succeeded in escaping from Germany, and have safely arrived in London,—Sgt. Joseph Turcotte (26280) 14th Batt., of Montreal, and a former C.P.R. fireman, and Pte. Peter Nelson (76227), 29th Batt., of Vancouver. Both were latterly at Munster, and both attribute their good health to the parcels of food sent regularly to them by the Canadian Red Cross Society and by private friends.



MAJOR E. D. SUTHERLAND.
Assistant Auditor General.

THE CANADIAN RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Is it to be or not to be? This is the question that most clerks are asking themselves to-day, and I will endeavour to enumerate the reasons why this Association has not been successfully launched.

Lack of publicity is the main reason, I venture to state that more than 50% of the Mail Service did not know of such proposed Benevolent Association or its By-laws until a few months ago, while some had particulars of the original By-laws more than eighteen months ago, who prepared either set of By-laws, or who proposed such an Association, no one knows; there was a meeting partially representative of the Service in Montreal on January 13th, but just what business was accomplished at this meeting no one evidently knows, neither do we know who attended. Why should not the whole Service have been supplied

with full information of such proposed Benevolent Association and also been given the opportunity of preparing the By-laws by which they were to be governed in July or August, 1915. Why have we not been supplied with the minutes of the Montreal meeting?

It is customary procedure for any Association to have a definite inauguration, the proposed members given full information as to who are responsible for its inception and their accredited representatives allowed to participate in the preparing of the By-laws by which they are to be governed, but in this Association, the first anyone knew of such was the receipt of the first By-laws in July, 1915, then after a delay, for some unknown reason of about fourteen months, an entire new set of By-laws and new name of the Association is presented to us, just why the name was changed, the By-laws practically changed around to considerably alter their meaning, and the inclusion of such clause as number seven which is compulsory to all under 35 years of age, no one knows, or would we ever know if such Association had been accepted by the majority of our clerks, and forced upon us as apparently those responsible for it had intended.

It is this air of mystery or entire absence of information that is primarily responsible for the average clerk withholding his support from what should have been a beneficial organization.

Now I will endeavour to give you my ideas for the success of a Benevolent System. At our recent Convention, inaugurating a Dominion Railway Mail Clerks' Federation, the following motion was passed, "That a committee of three be appointed to consider the advisability of endeavoring to amalgamate the Benevolent Association with this Federation." This could easily be accomplished at the next meeting of

our Federation, when new By-laws acceptable to all, adopted and added to our Constitution, the Officers of the Federation would govern and perform all work connected with such Benevolent system without any additional expense to the Federation or its members; while we must use good judgment in deciding who shall become members of a Benevolent system, we cannot afford to discriminate against any large body of our clerks or to intimidate others, and in order to govern such system to the approbation of all we must have more than one or two Officers, otherwise the scheme is impracticable.

If such recommendation as outlined above should be acted upon, I firmly believe it would merit the support of every clerk in the Service and that they would avail themselves of this additional protection.

A NEW SUPERINTENDENT.

The Service notes, with pleasure, the appointment of J. H. Fairweather to the superintendency of the Savings Bank Branch of the Post Office Department, which took effect on and from January 1st, in succession to W. H. Harrington, who retired on superannuation from that date.

The new superintendent has seen service in three branches of the Department, the Secretary's, the Money Order and the Savings Bank branches, since his first appointment as junior clerk in 1876. He was appointed a Chief Clerk in 1911, made Assistant Superintendent in 1913, and having risen from the ranks, brings to his office ripened experience and proved capacity for the responsible position he now occupies.

Mr. Fairweather has been acting head of his branch for the past six months, and his appointment is welcomed as another instance of the recognition by Ministers of the sound

principle of promotion for merit within the Service.

The new superintendent is an old sportsman, having played on the Ottawa football team in the '80's against Harvard at Harvard and Ottawa; was a "spare" with the Ottawa Rowing Club crew when it rowed in the Newark and Washington regattas in August, 1883. *The Civilian* joins with Mr. Fairweather's many friends in wishing him health and prosperity and many years of usefulness in the public service.

MANITOBA RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of this Association was held on February 3rd, about 22 clerks present, Mr. Laing, Vice-President, in the chair.

Mr. A. Hunt was appointed Secretary *pro tem* for the meeting.

Minutes of the last regular meeting and two executive meetings were read and approved.

Since the last meeting C. A. Hives had tendered his resignation as Secretary of this Association to the executive in order to devote his energies to the position of Secretary of the Dominion Railway Mail Clerks' Federation, and same has been accepted. Mr. McPherson had also tendered his resignation from the executive and same was accepted.

Quite a large number of letters from clerks on military duty in England and France were read conveying their sincere thanks for the Xmas parcels sent to them; the selection of the contents of the parcels had quite evidently been a wise one and had met with the hearty approval of the recipients.

Mr. Hives gave a report of the proceedings of the organization meetings of the Dominion R. M. C. Federation and read the Constitution and By-laws of same; a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Hives was passed for his able representation at these meetings.

Several members spoke, expressing their appreciation of the untiring efforts of Mr. Hives as Secretary of our Association and of Mr. McPherson as a member of the executive, the latter has taken an active part in the work of the Association for several years and has been one of its most consistent supporters.

Nominations were called for to fill the vacancy on the executive caused by the resignation of Mr. McPherson. Mr. Hunt was nominated by Mr. McPherson, this being the only nomination; Mr. A. Hunt was declared elected unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned until March 3, 1917.

At an executive meeting held on Feb. 19th, Mr. Hunt was elected Secretary of this Association.

REPORT LAID OVER.

The report of the sub-committee on representation and organization, published in full in the last issue of *The Civilian*, was again laid over for future consideration at a meeting of the executive committee of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa on March 6th. Chairman Lisle's absence from Ottawa made a postponement desirable. The report has been "received" by the committee, but has yet to be considered, section by section, before it is adopted in whole or in part.

The committee heard, with approval, of the scheme to raise a body of men for the heavy, or siege artillery, in the Civil Service. Civil servants have joined the field artillery in large numbers, and the chance to go with the big runs may attract many more young men into khaki.

The committee was strongly in favor of all civil servants who, for any reason, cannot go on active service, joining units of the militia.

Chairman Tremaine, of the Patriotic Affairs Sub-committee reported \$1,100 more received for the Patriotic Fund, and money still coming in.

Personals.**Obituary.**

Frederick Charles Roxborough, for sixteen years an employee of the Printing Bureau, died on February 27th, aged thirty-seven years. He was a son of the late Thomas Roxborough, superintendent of stationery, and is survived by his widow and two daughters, his mother, three sisters and two brothers. Miss Irma Roxborough, of the Department of Militia and Defence, is a sister.

Jules Gratton, of Hull, who died on March 1st, was a brother of Eugene Gratton, collector of customs in that city.

W. C. Thomas, of the Department of Public Printing and Stationery, died on February 23rd, aged sixty years.

Miss Margaret M. Hutchison, of the Department of Finance, one of the best known women in the Civil Service, died on March 2nd after an illness of less than a week. She was noted for her church and philanthropic work, and is deeply mourned in many circles.

C. E. Close, son of C. W. Close, of the Printing Bureau, died in Cordova, Alaska, on March 3rd, of pneumonia.

Rupert S. Davis, who was for many years on the staff of the Supreme Court as secretary to Sir Henry Strong, was found dead, sitting in his chair beside the fire on the morning of March 3rd. He leaves a widow and one son.

William Morrison Hutchison, for many years superintendent of works at Government House, died on March 10th, in his 78th year.

General.

The marriage took place recently, in England, of Winnifred Baker, formerly of Ottawa, daughter of the late W. C. Baker, of the Customs Department, to Adrian Lafreniere, of the head office of the Canadian Ordnance at Ashford, Kent, England. The ceremony was solemnized in St. Therese Roman Catholic Church at Ashford.

Dr. G. F. Mathew, of St. John, N.B., has been awarded the Murchison Medal and a check by the Royal Geological Society for valuable services in connection with geological research in New Brunswick. Dr. Mathew was formerly surveyor of customs at St. John.

Alonzo Corbeau has been appointed a preventive officer for the inland revenue division of Ottawa.

A woman may be an angel in disguise, but the disguise is generally effectual.

IN THE HANDS OF THE HUNS.

Donald MacNicholl of Vancouver, who went to the front with the 16th Battalion, writes from a German camp:

"I am confined in my 3 x 4 room. I am not sick, unless it is of the home kind. I am here for that honorable offence of 'beating it,' as the Americans would say. This is my second attempt. The first time I got within four miles of liberty, and the next 3 1/2. Fourteen days' solitary confinement on bread and water—that is what we suffer for these attempts; but, then, look at the prize if you win, and you know we are always going to win."

Every stay-at-home can do a little to ease the sufferings of the boys in the hands of the Huns by contributing to the prisoners of war funds of the Red Cross or the organizations that are assisting in this work.

Give a little,—regularly.

ARCTIC FISH.

The Department of Naval Service and the Geological Survey have appointed an Arctic biological committee to arrange for the reporting on the fine collection of polar specimens of fish which Dr. Stefansson's party have brought back from the north quite recently.

The committee has been meeting in the Victoria Memorial Museum. Amongst those who are attending the meetings are Professor E. E. Prince, Professor E. B. Macallum, Dr. C. G. Hewitt, Mr. J. M. Macoun, and Dr. R. M. Anderson. It is expected that the reports which will be ready inside of a short time will afford striking information respecting the northern waters. It is claimed that salmon and herring and many other kinds of valuable fish occur in abundance and the possibilities of the future developments of these waters are very great.

THE PATRONAGE EVIL.

(From Annual Report, Lethbridge Board of Trade.)

The serious detriment to the proper conduct of the public business of the Dominion and the provinces arising from the evils of political patronage was discussed at several of the council meetings of this board of Trade in 1915; but no definite action was taken till March, 1916, when at a general meeting a resolution was passed endorsing the findings of the report made to the Dominion government at their request by Sir George Herbert Murray, whose services were lent to Canada in 1912 by the British government for this purpose. The subject had in the meantime been mentioned in parliament by the Rt. Hon. Sir George E. Foster; and there has since been considerable public discussion.

Each succeeding government goes into office with an understanding that the Civil Service shall be rearranged on a better footing, providing for the gradual introduction of officers appointed on the basis of professional acquirements and ability, and for advancement in the service on the grounds of merit displayed in the performance of duty. It would appear to be desirable that non-political organizations such as boards of trade should strengthen the hands of the government by recording themselves as being firmly opposed to a continuance of the present practice, whereby appointments are made on the basis of political patronage—a system that is odious to all right-thinking men in political life, who find their own usefulness curtailed by a system that is repugnant to them, and that is greatly detrimental to the best interests of our citizenship.

The boards of trade at St. John, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Medicine Hat, Cal-

gary and Vancouver have gone on record as favouring reform, and the subject has been discussed in the press of the country.

FROM VANCOUVER

(A genuine "live wire" among the carriers of Vancouver sends the following welcome budget of news and views. Ed.)

"Women as Postmen"

"Paris. March. 3.—Women letter carriers will soon be delivering mail in Paris. This method will be an experiment and preference will be given to wives of soldiers. Some doubt has been expressed as to whether the women will be able to shoulder the wooden box that the Paris postman carries. Recently women tried to replace the postmen at Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, but they only lasted three days."

Yes, as a carrier, it will take a very vigorous woman to replace postmen successfully, let alone our brave returned soldiers. The soldier is looking for something better, with less routine work.

Among the returned soldiers who arrived in Vancouver on the 23rd ult. is noted the name of Bro. R. A. Watson. Bro. Watson enlisted with the 68th Battery, C. F. A., in July, 1915, was nearly four and a half months in hospitals with shock and rheumatism before coming home. He paid a visit to his old comrades last Thursday, and looked fairly well indeed, and proceeds to the convalescent hospital at Esquimalt, B. C., for further treatment, next week.

The Inland Water Transport service has sent another draft overseas in charge of Sergt.-Major Frank D. Hickman, formerly lieutenant in the Royal Navy, in charge of No. 1 submarine at Esquimalt. This officer is one of many who have accepted a commission of lower rank in order to get into active service immediately. Bro. Hickman was a member

of the local branch of the Letter Carriers, and immediately war was declared, signed up with the Royal Navy, in which he had previous experience in Great Britain, remaining there for fully two years, then transferred to the 68th Battery, C. F. A., subsequently assuming the charge of this draft. We understand that he has resigned as a Letter Carrier definitely last January. All his fellow workers wish him the best of luck in his new command.

Definite news is received of the death at the front of Private John Jamieson of the Seaforths, which was unofficially reported in a former issue. He is survived by a young widow who, before her marriage in February, 1916, was Miss Margaret Biggar.

Out of a staff of 154, the local postman have contributed 44 of their number to the fighting forces, thirty-five per cent.

WITH THE GUNS.

(From "Canada", London.)

"We came out of action last Thursday for a few days' rest, and have gone to billets," writes a member of the Emigration Staff in the Artillery Brigade in a letter to Mr. Obed Smith. "We had a pretty hot time of it during our last seven days in action. We were shelled out of our lines twice by a long-range German gun, firing 10 to 12 inch armour-piercing shells, and doing a good of damage, but none of military interest. On our second day we were just having dinner when they started. A whistle was blown to file the horses away for safety, when a shell burst just in front of the billet. It killed the sergeant-major's horse, and a piece of the shell went through the roof of my billet; shrapnel was falling like rain. Another one a few seconds afterwards blew up one of our ammunition wagons, but luckily it was empty; one of our chaps

standing about five yards away was thrown in the air about 20 feet, and landed in soft mud. He was hardly recognizable when we dug him out. This is only just a little bit of our excitement and a part of the day's work. We often get called out during the night to take ammunition up to the guns. Last Tuesday we were called out about 11 o'clock, and it was raining hard and pitch dark."

RETIREMENT IN THE STATES.

(By M. F. O'Donoghue in "The Chief.")

The dawn of the retirement millennium has come. Senator Henry Cobot Lodge, of Massachusetts, has introduced a service annuity bill retiring Federal employees who have been 50 years in the service on 75 per cent of their pay. The years of service are too high, and the allowance for men too low. Any employee who has been 50 years in a service should be retired on 100 per cent pay. The Federal judges are retired at 100 per cent after 10 years' service. I often wonder why legislators are so cowardly about the ages and amounts of annuities. If it was not the first plunge I would not wonder. But service annuities have been in vogue here in the government during the present generation, and are constantly being put into practice in business establishments. I attribute this trend to the selfish, serpentine, indefensible stand taken by the employees who first commenced the agitation for retirement. Can you imagine any more contemptible and reprehensible political serfdom than for a body of American citizens to appeal to another American citizen to permit them to frame a law, to provide for the retirement of Federal employees "at their own expense." And there are still new recruits pottering about with more or less like schemes. The great convention of 1910 declared for service

annuities of 75 per cent. The age limits should vary according to the nature of the employment. But the character and amount of the annuity are the main things. The others are matters of detail. The "good of the service" requires annuity of not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ the pay paid by the employer. These essentials the Lodge Bill contains. For that reason I hail it as "the dawn of the millenium."

The trend is in the right direction. There is agitation and discussion. Eventually there will be sound judgment. Ay, there's the rub. Correct judgment! How rare these days. The mandate "Take heed of what is said, not of him who speaks!" I have heard from the same platform on the same occasion diametrically opposite conclusions expressed on the same subject. And generally because of a want of understanding of fundamental principles, men seek statements not reasons. It is the age of

Toute la bonté et la vertu du
Raisin est concentrée dans le
Cognac.

PELLISSON

Le Cognac par Excellence.
Le déguster une fois, c'est
l'adopter pour toujours.

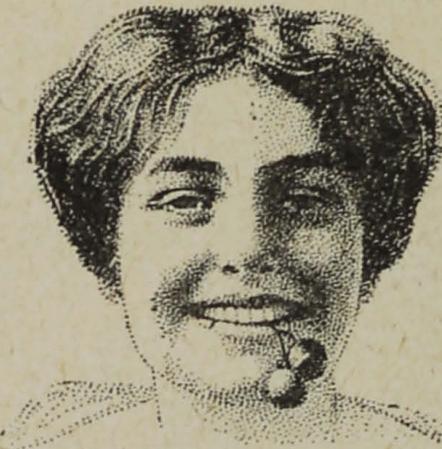
Pourquoi ne pas demander le
PELLISSON—vous êtes certain
de consommer le plus pur et le
plus agréable de tous les Brandy
et il ne vous en coûte pas plus.

shallow thinking. Then again there are those with an axe to grind.

A general retirement measure is sure to come during the next session of Congress. What kind of a measure it will be depends upon intelligent and efficient publicity.

The little Balkan States allied

Were big enough to beat the Turk.
And little savings if they're tied
Together do tremendous work.



Minty's Tooth Paste

Will keep your teeth in the condition nature intended them to be—pearly white, without bleaching or scouring. It is not an ordinary Tooth Paste, but a scientific preparation in concentrated form, designed to accomplish maximum results for the least cost to you. IT

"Is Delightfully Refreshing"

"Cleans and Whitens the Teeth"

"Sterilizes the Mouth and Brush"

While its positive bactericidal action destroys decay germs and counteracts the gasses and acids of the mouth. It is most economical because it contains no useless fillers, and "Half an Inch is all you need."

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THE POSTAL JOURNAL

All communications, matter for publication, etc., to be sent to "Editor of Postal Journal," Calgary, Alta.

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WHAT CAN BE DONE.

Never in the world's history has there been such an exemplification of what can be done when the necessity arises, in all branches of industry, thought, research, finance, invention and everything else that goes to make up the life of nations and individuals, than the process of evolution which, starting in August 1914, has continued and continues until one wonders what will come next. Persons, schemes and ideas which, before the war, were in the "unheard of" class, are now the very persons and ideas to which those who previously scoffed, now look to as the one means by which maximum efficiency may be attained. Examples of these things are so numerous and so well known to all that to cite such is hardly necessary. Because the war has come so much closer home to them, it is but natural to look to the other side of the Atlantic for the best illustrations of this state of affairs. When we think of the opinions held but a few years ago of the present Prime Minister of Great Britain, when we think of Labour members in the British Cabinet, when we think of the Government, we can faintly realize some of the results of that process of evolution. It shows what CAN be done when it is considered necessary. It is said that Necessity is the Mother of Invention. But very many of the present practices were invented, thought of, expounded and advocated, long before the present war. So, then, if it be true that Necessity is the Mother of Invention, in this case, can we not call War the foster parent who has brought up these efficient reforms until they have become actual realities. Undoubtedly, it is an awful foster parent to have to own, but, even so, since it has given us these reforms, it behoves us not to lose them after we have left the foster parent away behind, as we hope soon to do. But, since this is being written for the Postal Journal, what relation has all the foregoing to the Post Office? Surely the Post Office is not so insignificant that it cannot do its small part toward the work of reform that will

be necessary after the war—that, indeed, is necessary now. We are told that, after the war, the interest on Canada's war debt and her pensions alone, will amount to one hundred million dollars a year and that Canada's revenue for the year 1901 was only one hundred and one millions. A gentleman by the name of Mr. Sidney Webb, published a book last year entitled, "How to pay for the war". In it, he claims that the British Postal Service "could increase its profits by six millions of pounds a year, were it courageous enough to go into the field against certain vested interests". We believe that, were the Canadian Postal Department to be "popularized", it too could play no small part in relieving the financial burden of the Government. At the present time most of the Post Office revenue is derived from these branches of the Service which are monopolized by the Government. On the other hand, in those branches of the Service, where the Government is required to compete against "Big Business", but a small amount of the business comes her way. Surely this is because the Department does not get out after the business, it does not make the local Post Office a popular institution for such transactions. The financial necessity caused by the war may now bring about the required reforms and the Post Office may show what CAN be done. As one small example of what can be done, take the Savings Bank. A person places his money in the P. O. Savings Bank. When he wants his money out again, what happens? He must write and tell Ottawa all about it and wait until Ottawa replies and then what? He finds he's got a cheque on some private banking institution! Is that popular business? If you are not sure as to the answer, compare the savings bank deposits in the Post Office with those in the chartered banks of the country. But what CAN be done? To-day, the Government needs the people's money. There is a necessity. As a consequence, we have a far more popular idea in the form of war savings certificates. There is no fuss to put your money in and no trouble to get it out

again. Evidently, it CAN be done. Here then, perhaps, we may find the chance for the Post Office to play its part in financial assistance to the Government after war. Were the P. O. Savings Bank to be "popularized" and the present Government Annuity System to be converted into a real working-man's insurance scheme, there is little doubt that both the public and the Government would benefit materially. These are but two ideas, both of which are fully expounded in the book referred to above. The war had made us show what CAN be done and reforms succeeds reform, and if the Post Office is to take its part in solving the "after-the-war" problem, it too must bring some reforms and the "popularizing" of the Service, from the public's point of view, would appear to be one of them. Any institution that has agencies in every city, town and hamlet throughout the country had great opportunities and it behoves the Post Office to make the fullest use of them.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Branch Secretaries and members are requested to note that all matters intended for inclusion in the agenda for this year's Convention should be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer, at Winnipeg, not later than the last day of April. It will therefore be seen that, if consideration has not already been given to such matters, the earliest opportunity should be taken.

Branch Notes in this issue are of more than ordinary interest and will repay by being read. Calgary tells us of White men who are Green and talks of other funny things, perhaps only understood by the "curling crowd". Calgary, however, has a fine write-up on the subject of Patriotic Giving, which it would be surprising if it were not applicable to many other offices.

We also learn that Regina and Moose Jaw are on the visit again. Good for them.

Regina notes give the lie to the idea that conventions embarrass the financial standing of the visited branch for a considerable time afterward. Regina is certainly to be commended upon her present splendid standing both financially and otherwise.

Saskatoon is once more in our columns. Their talented correspondent has not been heard from for a long time owing to serious illness. All will be glad to see him 'on the job' once more.

'Heb' is evidently afraid that we shall

all forget that Spring approacheth, hence he reminds us with a few lines.

Don't forget those convention resolutions.

We learn that, in their own small way, Lethbridge have splendid meetings regularly every month, and it is not a question of who attends those meetings, NO ONE MISSES THEM. They work an idea which appears to keep the interest up to boiling point. Each month, one or another member, prepares a paper upon some topics of interest to such an association as ours, and reads it to the meeting, after which discussion ensues. Some of our City branches have a lot to learn from the smaller burgs.

Discuss convention business next meeting, don't forget!

A ll
P ropositions
R equire
I mmediate
L egislating.

BRANCH NOTES.

Saskatoon.

We wish to congratulate J. H. Hunter on his promotion to assistant P. O. I., succeeding J. L. Broughton, who owing to ill health, has gone South to a climate which is not quite so "bracing" and which we trust will have a beneficial effect upon his health. Mr. Hunter has been chief clerk to the P. O. I. for the last five years and his step-up is a source of great pleasure to all who know him.

A pat on the back is herewith given to W. Rippingale. Bet your life, it's a son, said our M. O. chief. Have a cigar. Of course the poor dear man doesn't know it, but he'll never have any money now. Biscuit is an awful man, he's got some due cards so that we won't have an excuse for not paying, or that we thought we were paid up to date. He also wants a dollar for the 'Journal' and a better attendance at meetings, tho' the boys are doing fine in that direction. And moreover, he wants us to be on time at same. There is a convention in July, he wants us to understand. The man is all want. The cost of living continues to soar which is also a sore point, in fact we shall have to invest in parachutes to get down to the office at all shortly.

Calgary.

Grand International Curling Match. The night was Wednesday, February 28th. It was a brau night when England met Scotland on the ice. The event of the

season at the Scotchman's national game. Of course the game started a couple of days before it was due to start and, at the time of writing, is still going on, i.e., they are still talking about it. The teams were clerks v. carriers, one Scotch and one English team from each. Everyone was in great form and high spirits going down to the rinks, but the rivalry had got almost beyond bounds as the Scotchmen refused to sit with the white men in the car, but they were glad to come back. The most marvellous thing happened at this meet, just think of it. Everybody was on time — even the secretary, and we got off to a good start. Although all the men were green, yet all played like veterans in one rink, up to the ninth end the score stood 5-5, showing the closeness of the play. In almost every end the stones were in the house and only skilful work on the part of the skips, enabled the respective teams to score. It was very much the same on the other rink, just neck and neck all the way until the 11th end, when the score stood 11-9 in favor of the white men. About this time a terrific roar burst out from the other rink and everyone rushed to the doors. But it wasn't a fire at all, but only the boys there having finished their most enjoyable game, the white men having trimmed the geordies to the tune of 10-5. Och! let's play twa muir ends said a Geordie, hoping to, at least, even the score, but the English were too good for them, the score was increased to 13-6. The other rink, having completed their game, the white men again proved their superiority, the score being 14-9. As an international match, the English teams win, but as a Departmental encounter, the game was a draw.

The teams were:—Carriers-Scotch v. Clerks, English-Carriers Brown, Little, Ross, Lawson, 'skip'. Clerks Henderson, Sturdy, King, Boothman, 'skip'. Carriers-English v. Clerks, Scotch-Carriers Urst, 'skip'. Clerks, Aitken, Aitken, Cunningham.

Calgary Postal Clerks' Patriotic Fund. This fund has been doing good work since its formation, 18 months ago, and at present is trying hard to keep up the good work, but to do so, it must have the full sympathy and support of the entire staff. As a large number of the original supporters of this fund have gone to do a nobler and greater duty at the front, it is the duty of those at home to keep this fund going. The needs of the different patriotic causes are far greater now than in the past and amongst the following each and everyone will find a cause which should arouse him to a full sense

of duty Southern Alberta Patriotic Fund, Red Cross Fund, Belgium and Serbian Reliefs and also Prisoners of War Fund.

As your fund contributes to each of the foregoing, it is desirable that you should do your utmost and give all that is possible to keep up the good work. Of the latter fund we would call the attention of all. At present, we are supporting five prisoners of war with sufficient food and clothing to enable them to exist. Can any of us realize the fate of these brave men who, only a short while ago, were living in our own happy and peaceful Province with plenty of food and clothing? Can we realize what their present plight is? Without food, scantily clothed and suffering unknown hardships, if we realize their condition, it is our duty to do all we can to provide for them in their time of need. So, then, we ask all men in our office to ask themselves this one question "Am I giving all that is possible for such noble causes"? If you are not satisfied with your own answer, see the treasurer of your Patriotic Fund who will be glad to receive your contributions.

Our best wishes go with Bob Strange, who has recently enlisted with the Ammunition Column. Bob was a regular attendant at the meetings and moreover, a good worker, being the local agent for the "Civilian" for some considerable time.

We suppose all our members, no matter where they reside, if they read branch notes know 'Goodie' by now. He's always appearing in these notes. However, it's not his fault, he's so funny, he can't help it. His latest stunt is growing hair. Of course, lots of men have tried before to grow hair upon a bald plate, but here's the difference, Goodie really believes he's doing it.

Regina.

The monthly meeting was held on Sunday, Feb. 18, in the Recreation Room. It is a long time since Regina had such a well attended and successful meeting. There were about 30 members present when President Gardner called the meeting to order. After the reading of the minutes and correspondence, a pleasing feature at this period was the admittance to membership of 12 new members. The question of a "Roster of Staff" to be placed in a conspicuous part of the office, was discussed. It was the feeling of many that such a list, showing the names according to seniority and stating the date on which each clerk was placed on the permanent staff, would enable each man to determine his standing in the office. Upon the introduction of new busi-

ness, an invitation to visit Moose Jaw branch was accepted, and before the insertion of these notes, the visit will be over and our members looking forward to a return visit from the railway City members, and we are certain that they will go home with the bonds of fraternal interests more closely cemented together. News has just been received in this office of the wounding of Mr. W. H. Smith, Bill was struck by an enemy bomb and seriously injured in the leg, his officer writes in part as follows, "That when being carried away and suffering painfully, he was surprisingly cheerful". It is encouraging to note that this branch is now more prosperous than at any period of its existence. Never had we such a membership, never were we so strong financially, never so productive of good results. Our Association is the heritage of the boys at the front. Carry on.

Edmonton.

We note with interest the comment of the Editor of the Postal Journal on the foundation of a Public Service Association in Edmonton. The writer of these lines has resided in the West for close on two decades and during this period has witnessed more than one attempt to purge the Service of the pitch "that defileth" and to substitute "competition wallahs" for purely political appointees. The consummation of this ideal is most devoutly to be desired, and it is hoped that this latest endeavour will prove less sterile and spasmodic than its predecessors. If there was less talk of Political Expediency, and more of Public Weal, the people of this country would benefit both individually and collectively.

In lighter vein we have now on Feb. the unbounded success of our Whist-Drive and Dance held on Feb. 20th, when a crowd of 150 people enjoyed the cards and dancing arranged for their delectation by the Social Committee, who not only distinguished themselves, but afterwards endeavoured to extinguish themselves. Happily the conflagration was merely of a local character, and at the close of the present penitential season, we shall find them like giants "refreshed with lemonade."

Mrs. Martin, the P. M's scribe, has returned from a two week's stay at a place called Lethbridge. Before going South, a mathematical operation was performed, whereby she assumed a new strange name. Our condolences are with her; likewise a casserole. (Sounds like a part of a ship's rigging, does it not?)

Lieut. Tessier, late 233rd Batt., is back once more in the office, having been dis-

charged from the Service on account of an unfortunate illness. The spirit to serve, however, has been manifested by him, and we should all feel a pronounced sense of grievance, where he to lose anything by his absence from the office on Imperial business.

We have promised ourselves the disagreeable but necessary duty of administering a wholesome castigation to certain Patriotic Fund back-sliders in this Office. We have had occasion to refer to this matter on several occasions before, thereby laying ourselves open to the charge of assuming the rôle of a mere captious critic; but on a subject like this we welcome such an indictment, as we feel, with Othello, that we must be "nothing if not critical."

It may prove interesting for some parties in this Office to learn that steps have been taken to eliminate the factor of uncertainty and irregularity attached to the subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund, by adopting a surer and more drastic method of collecting.

The breakdown in the voluntary system of contributing is solely the result of the action and attitude of a few individuals, who by withholding what they pledge themselves to donate, indirectly assist the Germanic Cause. (Let them argue this statement out for themselves and they will find it to be a fact.) These person's patriotism and sense of self-sacrifice is as shoddy as the views they have advanced from time to time when called upon to contribute to any cause, Patriotic or otherwise. The even tenor of their way in this respect can be gauged only by their length of service in the Office. Let them take heart of grace however; the question as to whether or not they shall have the privilege of fulfilling their pledges at pleasure, is now in higher hands. Till anything definite is arrived at we will consign them for nonce to well merited obscurity, in company with the Duke of Gloster's "iron witted fools and unrespective boys."

"DOES FAMOUSLY."

Lance-Corp. P. Simmonds, 106553, 1st C.M.R., prisoner of war, Reserve Lazarett, Stuttgart III., Rollschuhbagn, Stuttgart, Wurttemburg, writes: "The Canadian Red Cross does famously for us in the parcel line, clothes also. If you know anyone in it please give them my thanks."

HEB'S PARCEL CLERK

Having heard of the probably forthcoming war bonus our friend the Parcel Expert takes on very optimistic views and thereby views everything and everybody with a smile, an even more gracious one than he gets credit for. HEB hates to think what will happen when he actually handles his war bonus,—if he ever does!

Now, all ye maidens, young and old;
Come harken unto me—
The clerks who tend our wicket are
Not game for such as ye.

We must attend to business,
And if ye would be gay,
Call, when we're off duty, and
Have leisure time to play

Or if ye can't contain yourselves,
And must with someone speak;
Call at the parcel wicket, there
Ye'll find the thing ye seek.

Ye'll find within that space a man,
With smile serene and wide;
A smile, e mighty smile that fills
That space from side to side;

The widest wicket of them all
Yet to contain that smile,
Would not be nearly wide enough
If it were half a mile.

HEB.

Apologies to Burns.

HERE IT IS AGAIN!!

Some few days ago one of our members was thoughtful enough to send us a recent copy of the magazine known as "Motor and Sport." Since up to the present we have not been in a position to own an automobile, we were at a loss to understand why it was mailed to us. However, following out the instructions contained on the cover, we a certain page, and this is what we found:

"The ability to co-operate, to work with others, is commensurable with the practical, intelligent wisdom of individuals. But allow an agitator to infest the ranks, your earliest objects are frustrated, less wisdom in the aggregate predominates. . . . Before the dawn of civilization, men lived alone and carried no responsibilities for anyone except themselves. Co-operations were first founded on a natural primitive, common need — protection. The foundation of all co-operation. . . . Where the work has been wise, such co-operation has produced great and beneficial results. We must steer clear of the ruts of an-

tagonisms, inconsistency, distrust, hypocrisy, individual indifferences to the rights and interests of others, which seems to have prevented natural and legitimate progress, so that all business of allied interests will disregard undue personal ambition, and work and pull together, co-operate, join hands for the protection and promotion of the welfare of all alike. . . . Co-operation with each other is to furnish advice and data as to market possibilities. Getting together is the sensible slogan of the times."

THE NAME OF FRANCE.

Give us name to fill the mind
With the shining thoughts that lead mankind—

The glory of learning, the joy of art—
A name that tells of a splendid part
In the long, long toil and the strenuous
fight

Of the human race to win its way
From the ancient darkness into the day
Of freedom brotherhood, equal right—
A name like a star, a name of light:

I give you, France!

Give us a name to stir the blood
With a warmer glow and a swifter flood
At a touch of courage that conquers fear—
A name like the call of a trumpet, clear
And silver sweet and iron strong,
That brings three million men to their feet,
Ready to march and steady to meet
The foe who threatens that name with
wrong—

A name that rings like a battle song:
I give you, France!

Give us a name to move the heart
With a strength that noble griefs impart—
A name that speaks of the blood outpoured
To save mankind from the sway of the
sword—

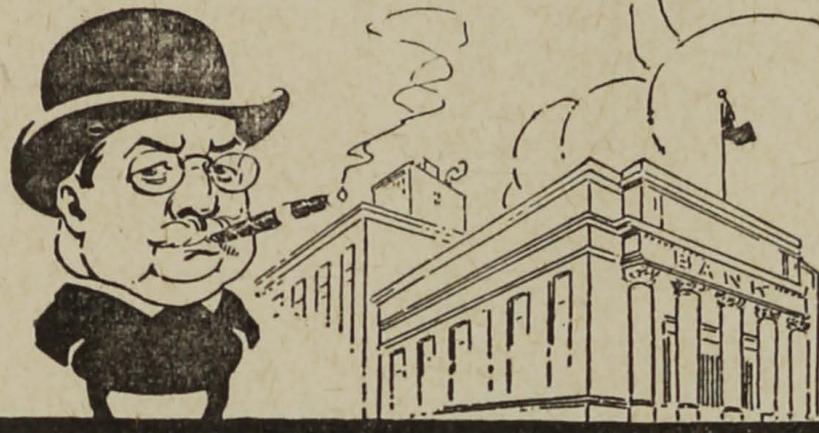
A name that calls the world to share
The burden of sacrificial strife
Where the cause at stake is the world's
free life
And the rule of the people everywhere—
A name like a vow, a name like a prayer:
I give you, France!

—Henry Van Dyke, in the Art World.

THE END

When we have finished life's journey
We will look back and say
On life's long mile,
There was nothing worth while
But the good we did on the way.

MEN OF AFFAIRS—



who know the importance of correct dress, are firm friends of

FIT-REFORM SUITS

We have all the New Styles—
SEE THEM.

THE 2 MACS LIMITED
BANK & SPARKS STS., OTTAWA

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TRY OUR SILK TENTS, EIDERDOWN ROBES AND CAMP FURNITURE. WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF SURVEYOR'S SUPPLIES

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Acquaint us with your requirements, as specifications, drawings and estimates are gladly given at any time.

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WE are prepared to produce, upon a large scale, articles of metal and wood. Our facilities include plants for the manufacture of steel, malleable and grey iron castings—rolled steel and iron products—frogs, switches and track work for electric and steam railways—coil and elliptic springs—forgings—cabinet and other wood work—and all preparatory and finishing adjuncts. Correspondence invited.

Please address Sales Department, P.O. BOX 180, MONTREAL.

Inquiries respecting building construction contracts and supervision should be addressed to—
RHODES, CURRY COMPANY, LIMITED, AMHERST, N.S.

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PRATT & LEITCHWORTH CO., LIMITED

CANADIAN STEEL FOUNDRIES, LIMITED
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ANOTHER NEW
Ganong Box -
Milk Chocolates
ASSORTED CENTERS
SO GOOD - IT WILL BE YOUR FAVORITE
Ganong's  Chocolates

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

SOLICITS YOUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

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